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National Park Service

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# SIERRA CLUB BULLETIN

*September  
1958*

*Report on Point Reyes—Pages 3 to 9*

# People You Know

If you think freeway traffic is heavy, get a load of the 4th of July picture on the Palisades:

Traversing from Thunderbolt to North Pal were *Si Ossofski*, *Lito Tejada-Flores*, *Barbara Lilley*, *John Shino*. On the North Pal traverse were *Fred Martin*, *Bob Tambling*. From Thunderbolt to Northwest Peak were *Roy Gorin*, *Joe Stone*, *Harry Daley* and *Ron Bierstedt*. Conquering the Milkbottle were *John* and *Ruth Mendenhall*, *Roy Gorin*, *Joe Stone*. From North Pal to U Notch were *John Diewenner*, *Chuck Ballard*, *George Wallerstein*. And there were others whose names our reporter didn't catch.

Speaking of climbers, the *Mugelnoos* corrects a rumor:

"To dispel one about one of our sterling members driving an ice ax through his leg, let the facts be known," it said. "It was not a sterling member, only *George Wallerstein*. He did not drive an ice ax through his leg. He fell on it. The whole ice ax was not driven through his leg—only the point."

**THE SIERRA CLUB,\*** founded in 1892, has devoted itself to the study and protection of national scenic resources, particularly those of mountain regions. Participation is invited in the program to enjoy and preserve wilderness, wildlife, forests, and streams.

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\*Reg. U.S. Pat. Off.

New peaks added to the Sierra Peaks Section's qualifying list include Spanish Needle, Taylor Dome, Rockhouse, Midway Mountain, Mammoth Mountain, San Joaquin Mountain, Mt. Starr King, Mt. Florence, and Dunderberg Peak. Donohue Peak was removed.

Work parties continue to draw good crowds. Thirty-five attended one late in June at Keller Peak Ski Hut in Snow Valley. Ed Petersen led 15 on a nature hike and Louise Bonner served up barbecued steaks. Frank and Marge Goble and Phil Taplin led in folk dancing in the evening. All of this is not to conceal the fact that a good deal of honest work was done.

*Mary Graser* and *Eleanor Smith* penned an original musical comedy for a meeting of the Angeles songsters and while not all of the laughs were intentional, everyone agreed that this is a new Rodgers and Hammerstein combination.

*Peggy and Harry McLean* have climbed 204 peaks. They are the first husband-and-wife team to have climbed all of the 100 peaks listed. The 100-peakers now number 49 and there are 50 others who have topped 25 or more.

Travelers included about everyone in the club this summer. Among them:

*Sven Hueg*, to Copenhagen; *Gladys Lucas*, to British Columbia; *Alma Chessman* up the coast; *Hank Severon* in the East doing research for his book on railroads; *Louise Cooperider*, planning to leave for Bolivia to teach (what, for goodness sakes, and to whom?); *Gladys Kasperson* to Newfoundland; *Helen Barney* via freighter to Punta Arenas, on the Straits of Magellan; *Wanda Riggins* to the altar with *Mike Mayo*, City Attorney of Montebello; *Lucy Winkler*, retired high school science teacher, to Thailand, and beyond (when you get beyond Thailand you are coming back); *Parker Severson* to Hawaii, and *Sparky* and *Frances Wilson* ditto.

While on that tack, it might be mentioned that yours truly took what must be the shortest junket on record to Honolulu not long ago—over one day, back the next.

Desert Peaks Section sponsored a bus trip over the July 4th weekend to the site of the proposed Great Basin National Park near Ely and maybe that is where *Weldon Heald* was this summer. I know he wasn't at his Tucson home, because I called there. Transportation on the above trip was by air-conditioned Greyhound and how soft can you get?

DAN L. THRAPP



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# Sierra Club Bulletin

VOLUME 43

SEPTEMBER, 1958

NUMBER 7

... TO EXPLORE, ENJOY, AND PROTECT THE NATURAL MOUNTAIN SCENE ...

## Point Reyes Park Proposed

ACTION on several fronts has followed the public release of a National Park Service report that urged establishment of a seashore recreation area along the coast of the Point Reyes Peninsula in Marin County.

The report was drafted by the San Francisco regional office of the Park Service as one of a series surveying the Pacific coastline. Its contents were first disclosed by the San Francisco *Chronicle* June 30.

The Park Service planners called for joint efforts at the Federal, State and local levels to solve the problems of acquisition, and to spell out in detail just how the area might be developed.

Even before the report was publicly released, its conclusions were endorsed by the National Park Service Advisory Board, which unanimously urged a full-scale study of the project.

Newspapers and conservation organizations in San Francisco and Marin County responded to the report with immediate enthusiasm.

First official action came in Congress, where the House Interior Committee approved a resolution requesting the Park Service to draft a final report on the project.

The resolution was introduced by Congressman Clair Engle and asked the Interior Department to give "particular attention" to prospects for State, local and private acquisition of the 28,000-acre site. It urged that the area be operated administratively by the Park Service.

The California State Park Commission, meanwhile, heard a report on the site from

Director Newton B. Drury, who said he was "truly amazed" at the possibilities of the project. He estimated acquisition costs at up to \$12 million.

The Park Commission voted to coöperate fully with the Federal government in a thorough study of the area and indicated willingness to consider joint Federal-State financing.

In Marin the County Planning Director welcomed the Point Reyes proposal, and the Board of Supervisors began studying it in detail. Vicious opposition developed almost at once from dairy ranchers in the Point Reyes area, who formed the West Marin Property Owners Association in late July specifically to fight establishment of a public recreation area on the peninsula.

They claimed the park proposal would "rip the backbone" out of the local dairy industry, remove valuable land from the tax rolls, and constitute unwarranted "seizure" of private property. They secured support from the Marin Coast Chamber of Commerce.

By late summer it appeared, therefore, that an intensive fight would be developing over the Point Reyes plan.

As it stands now the project is only in preliminary outline form. Federal and State agencies must still come up with specific proposals for land acquisition, development and management. Legislation will be required at each level.

Whether the project will succeed, and how long it will take, will depend in large measure on the extent of organized support that develops.

DAVID PERLMAN

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EMBER, 1958



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## Rediscovering a Peninsula

**T**HE POINT REYES Peninsula is an island in time.

Drive an hour northwest of the Golden Gate, cross the ancient earth rift known as the San Andreas Fault, climb onto the rocky peninsula, and you travel back into the centuries.

Examine the peninsula's granite foundation and you go back a hundred million years to the era when most of California had not yet risen from the sea and Point Reyes was part of a long land mass connected with the Farallon Islands.

Explore the deep woods and the rare species of trees and you go back to the last Ice Age.

Wander across lonely fog-swept downs or along deserted beaches and you turn back the calendar four centuries to the time when Drake made his mysterious California landing, the Spanish explorers stopped here for fuel and water, and Point Reyes was a well-known landmark long before the Golden Gate

was discovered. This was the original San Francisco Bay, and had it not been for the accidental discovery of the Golden Gate two centuries later, the city of San Francisco might have been built on this site.

The most remarkable aspect of this peninsula, however, is not its ancient land forms, its rare plant life, or its historic associations, but the fact that it lies within 30 miles of San Francisco and remains a near-wilderness. By some miracle, three million people live within an easy afternoon's driving range of the area and yet it remains little changed since the days of Drake. Its beaches have not been littered with beer cans and Kleenex; its forests are not logged over; its meadows and rolling hills have not been hacked and levelled for subdivisions.

Not yet.

But even Lloyd's of London wouldn't make you a bet that this condition will continue any longer. One way or another, that peninsula is going to be "developed" very

*Meadow and forest meet  
on the uplands of  
Inverness Ridge*

soon. It will either be developed as a public park for recreation purposes, or it will be developed by commercial interests in their own way. Already the whine of the lumberman's chain saws can be heard in the forests of Douglas fir, and real estate firms are ready to begin subdivision of beach areas into high-priced estates.

To those of us who have hiked through this magnificent area for years, nothing could be more gratifying than the recent enthusiastic report of National Park Service officials on the peninsula's tremendous potentialities as a park. Considering the increasing demand for outdoor recreation facilities near the San Francisco Bay area, the Park Service survey team estimated that the proposed 28,000-acre recreation area at Point Reyes, developed on either a state or national basis, would attract a million visitors a year. Small entrance fees would soon repay the cost of purchase. The estimate does not seem too high; nearby Muir Woods National Monument, with only 500 acres, has more than 400,000 annual visitors.

The 28,000-acre area under consideration at Point Reyes is composed of five principal types of terrain: the white cliffs and beaches of Drake's Bay, including a three-mile sandspit enclosing Drake's Estero and the estero itself; a 12-mile sweep of sandy ocean beach

north of Point Reyes; the high rocky headlands of Point Reyes and Point Tomales; the grasslands and wildflower fields above the cliffs; and a 12,500-acre chunk of Douglas fir forest on Inverness Ridge west of the Bolinas-Tomales Bay road, including several lakes and a number of 1000-foot peaks.

The variety of landscapes is unsurpassed. "The transition in this relatively undeveloped region," the report states, "from its 45 miles of seashore to the forest-covered Inverness Ridge, a scant two miles away, provides a combination of scenic, recreational, and biological interests which can be found nowhere else in this country as near a large center of population."

*Beach and inland camping*

There are ample areas for the development of campsites both along the peninsula's beaches and in the more sheltered meadows and clearings among the woods of Inverness Ridge. Fishermen would have the choice of casting their lines from sandy beaches, from rocks, in lagoons, or in the nine small freshwater lakes and ponds among the rolling hills. Landing facilities and launching ramps for small boats could be developed at Drake's and Tomales Bays. Abbott's Lagoon, a protected salt-water inlet, would be ideal for the smallest type of craft.

Although the beaches along the ocean drop off too suddenly into deep water and the surf is often too strong for safe swimming, both Tomales and Drake's Bays offer good possibilities for swimmers. The sandspit at

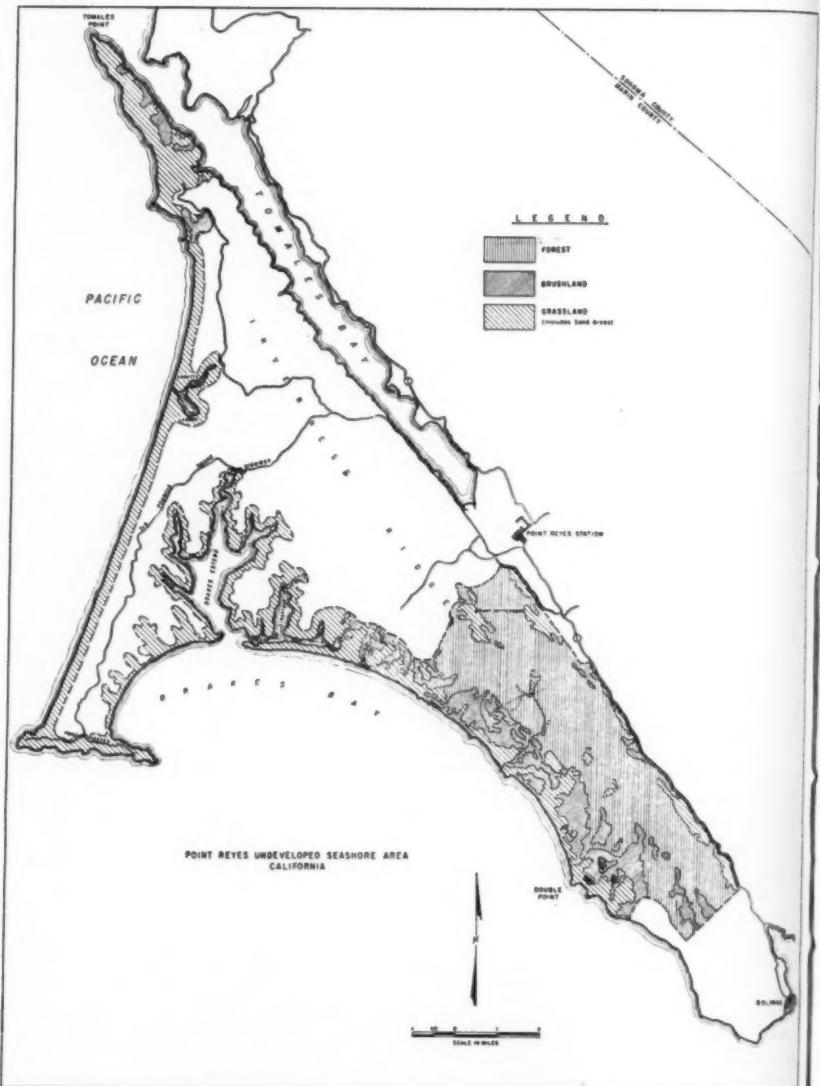
*Sheltered waters in  
Drake's Estero*



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EMBER, 1958



*This map is a part of the Pacific Coast Seashore Recreation Survey report prepared by Region Four of the National Park Service. Shaded portions indicate the proposed park, including shoreline and inland areas, forest and grasslands, beaches and lagoons.*

the mouth of Drake's Estero is strikingly similar to that at popular Stinson Beach a few miles south and offers an even more protected swimming area.

Painters, photographers, bicyclists, beach-combers, picnickers, and horsemen would all find ample attraction in the area. Dozens of miles of new trails could be opened to hikers through wooded and hill country comparing favorably with the Tamalpais area, particularly in the value of flora and fauna.

"No other Pacific Coast area as near a large metropolitan center," the Park Service report points out, "presents as complete a representation of coastal natural history."

The Black Forest of Inverness Ridge, southwest of Olema, is dominated by one of the finest stands of Douglas fir in the United States—making it highly attractive to lumbermen. Other trees are the California buckeye, the coast live oak, the red alder, and the flat-topped bishop pine. The latter is a particularly fascinating tree which propagates primarily by means of fire; the heat opens the cones, permitting the seeds to scatter. This rare tree grows only on this peninsula and in a few other areas along the coast which have been geologically isolated from the mainland in earlier times.

### Spectacular wildflowers

The entire peninsula, separated from the mainland by the San Andreas Fault (which runs through Tomales and Bolinas Bays and the valley joining them), belongs to an old granitic formation which was above the ocean long before the Coast Range rose from the sea bottom. In some areas the fault is plainly visible, particularly near Olema, where rows of trees were moved out of line by the quake of 1906.

The brushy areas of the peninsula include toyon, wild roses, ceanothus, willow, purple nightshade, sage, laurel, and blackberry. And the grasslands in spring and early summer have brilliant displays of wildflowers "among

*Near the rocky cliffs of  
Double Point, seals  
find a protected habitat*

the finest of their kind in the United States." This writer, among others, has made annual spring pilgrimages to the Point Reyes dunes for the spectacular show of yellow lupine, which stand sometimes as high as a man's head.

### Abundant animal life

The salt- and fresh-water marshes have a variety of plant and animal forms which are becoming increasingly rare as California's marsh areas, particularly those of San Francisco Bay, are filled in for subdivisions. The abundant animal and bird life includes raccoons, deer, coyotes, foxes, bobcats, quail, hawks, egrets, herons, sandpipers, pelicans, and cormorants. Point Reyes is the southernmost habitat of the mountain beaver, one of the few places where the California murre breeds on the mainland, and the wintering ground for one of the largest concentrations of black brant geese on the Pacific coast. It is one of the few areas where sea lions and harbor seals can both be seen. There have even been reports of an occasional elephant seal, a rare mammal weighing more than two tons.

In another field, the area is the storm center of one of the most controversial episodes of early North American history. It may be the site of the first English landing in what is now the United States, nearly half a century before the Pilgrims stepped ashore at Plymouth Rock. Or it may not be.

Sir Francis Drake is known to have landed at some bay along this part of the California coast in the *Golden Hinde* on his voyage around the world in 1579. Some historians claim his landfall was at San Francisco Bay. Others, probably more numerous, believe he landed inside Point Reyes—hence the name Drake's Bay. The mystery has provided am-



ple excitement for amateur historians and archeologists who comb the uninhabited beaches hoping to find clues to the landing, including evidence of a stone fort known to have been built by Drake's men.

The authenticated brass plate left by Drake claiming this land in the name of Queen Elizabeth (he named the area Nova Albion because the white cliffs reminded him of Dover) was supposed to have been first found near a Drake's Bay beach. Even among those who believe Drake landed here there are differences of opinion. Until recently the favored spot was just inside the hooked inner tip of Point Reyes itself, but the amateur historians of the Drake Navigators Guild, including Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, have developed a well-documented theory to prove that the *Golden Hinde* was careened in Drake's Estero, the shallow inner harbor which at that time was presumably deeper than at present and capable of accommodating a ship.

Explorer Sebastian Cermeño, who came ashore here 16 years after Drake's California landfall, found no indication of any previous landing, although his own ship was wrecked here and traces of it are still being found. Cermeño named this harbor "San Francisco Bay," and it was nearly two centuries before the harbor inside the Golden Gate was discovered and the name transferred to the present San Francisco Bay.

The question of Drake's landing is far from settled. Possibly some day shifting sands or burrowing beachcombers may uncover the remains of Drake's fort and answer the question once and for all. Until then, anyone is entitled to his own theory.

Probably the greatest objection which will be raised to the proposed Point Reyes park is the weather—particularly that of the

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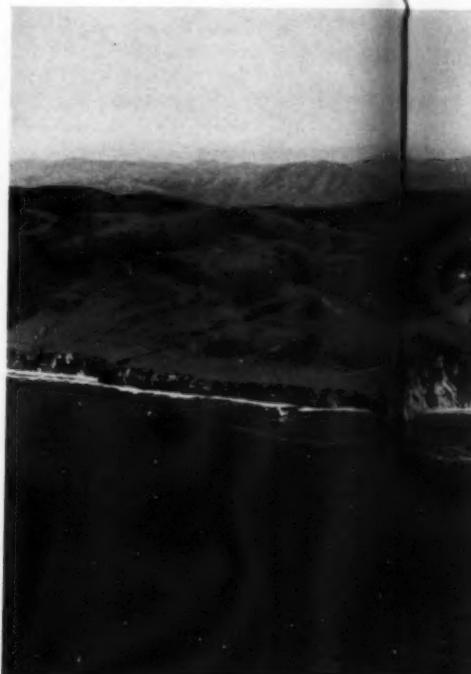
Angeles Chapter's 46th Annual Banquet will be held on October 18 at the Los Angeles Breakfast Club. Will Siri, Sierra Club director, will show the official film of the International Physiological Expedition to Antarctica (which was so well received at the club's Annual Dinner in May). Tickets—for the dinner, film, and dancing—are \$4.00, from Walt Heninger, 1442 Mt. Pleasant Street, Los Angeles 42.

beach areas. The Park Service report deals with the question in one sentence: "In all honesty it must be said that there is a good deal of fog and a good deal of wind" in the area west of Inverness Ridge.

The degree to which these conditions are objectionable is largely a matter of personal taste. To many people, the great winds which send spectacular waves crashing against the rocks at Point Reyes and the long tongues of fog which sometimes drift among the sand dunes and advance up the canyons are part of the area's scenic appeal.

Like all Northern California ocean beaches, including those of the Monterey Peninsula, the Point Reyes area is often cool and foggy at the times when the heat in the interior valleys is most intense. Sun-baked residents of the hot dry valleys may welcome the damp coolness of the coast.

It would be a mistake to try to sell the



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Point Reyes park idea on the assumption that this area is similar to the warm beaches of the south. This is not another Laguna or La Jolla. Weatherwise, it is more nearly comparable to Point Lobos at Carmel, for example, where the winds and fogs are an essential part of the natural beauty.

Within the 28,000 acres of the proposed park, there are significant variations in the weather. There may be warm sunshine on the leeward slopes at times when Point Reyes itself is shrouded in fog. Even at the exposed Point Reyes lighthouse, the foghorn, which is set off when visibility to sea is less than five miles, was operated a total of only 1572 hours during all of 1957. Although these figures do not include high cloudiness, this means that the point was fog-free more than 80 per cent of the time last year.

But judge for yourself. Drive along the San Andreas Valley between Bolinas and

Tomales Bay in any weather and peer into the deep woods to the west, where trails could be built through dozens of miles of magnificent fir forest alongside streams and lakes.

Go out to the lighthouse some Sunday afternoon and watch the giant waves break on the rocks 500 feet below while the sea lions bark and roar.

Wander among the sand dunes which in spring are ablaze with wildflowers and on summer afternoons are haunted by wraiths of fog.

Explore the beaches and cliffs of the bay where Drake may have careened the *Golden Hinde*, keeping an eye out for the remains of his stone fort.

And ask yourself if this area is worth saving for a time when California, by official calculation, will be jammed with nearly four times its present population.

If so, we're going to have to act fast.

HAROLD GILLIAM

(Two Point Reyes trips have been arranged by the San Francisco Bay Chapter of the Sierra Club: on September 28, a hike along the beach north of the Point, and on January 4, beachcombing and exploration at Drake's Bay. Mother Lode Chapter will visit the area on November 30. Details are in local chapter schedules.

Hal Gilliam's interest in Point Reyes is a natural extension of his successful book, "San Francisco Bay," published last year. He is on the staff of the San Francisco *Chronicle*, and a member of the Sierra Club.)

Material for Mountaineering Notes for the 1959 annual *Bulletin* should be submitted to John Shonle, 2335 Parker Street, Apt. 5, Berkeley 4, California, no later than November 30, 1958. Please type double-spaced, and please refer to previous annual SCB's for scope and form of the notes.

*Aerial view shows the impressive variety of terrain the proposed park would offer.  
(All Point Reyes photographs courtesy of National Park Service)*

# Board of Directors

Reports of May  
and July meetings

PROTECTION problems of the national parks and of wild and wilderness areas of the national forests, and a number of other general conservation questions occupied much of the time of the meetings of the Board of Directors in May and July.

At the annual organization meeting on May 3 club officers were elected, honorary officers reelected, and a thirteenth chapter established. (See May *Bulletin*.) In other actions affecting club administration the directors thanked Council Chairman Kathleen Jackson for a job "well done"; formulated a policy for administering the Sierra Club Expedition Fund; asked the Library Committee and the Council to collaborate on a long-range program for the club libraries; decided to offer irreplaceable and valuable historical documents to the Bancroft Library in Berkeley for safekeeping and reference availability; approved in principle a proposal by the Mountaineering Committee to provide training in technical mountaineering with costs distributed among the participants; and agreed on a November meeting of the Board in San Diego to facilitate study of some important conservation problems in Southern California.

Turning to current conservation matters—general and specific—the major actions taken by the directors in May included the following:

- To urge upon the Secretary of Interior the temporary setting aside of federal lands of probable high scenic, scientific, and recreational value in order to assure the maximum effectiveness of the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review and a national recreation plan.
- To support legislation that would appropriate funds for research on the effect of insecticides on wildlife.
- To support legislation which would appropriate funds for the study and conservation of the rare Hawaiian nene goose.
- To support the principle of non-impairment of the present protective restrictions on any existing wildlife refuges.

• To urge that when vistas are cleared in the national parks the surplus wood which in recent years has been disposed of as chips on meadows should be disposed of in a manner that will not impair the meadows.

• To urge steps for the immediate protection of the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest in the White Mountains of California, including withdrawal from mining entry. (See May *Bulletin*.)

**I**N A MEETING on July 4 and 5 in Tuolumne Meadows the directors discussed particular Yosemite problems as well as other conservation matters of state and national scope. Several club internal decisions were also made. Here are some of the matters covered:

- To commend the sponsors of the Wilderness System legislation on their achievement in clarifying and revising the proposals as represented in the final congressional bills S. 4028 and H.R. 13013, and to urge enactment.
- To commend the National Park Service on its survey of portions of the Pacific Coast worthy of preservation by public agencies for park, recreational and wildlife purposes and particularly the report on the necessity for public protection of the Point Reyes area. The club will support a coördinated program for acquisition and preservation of adequate space in that area.
- To urge that the National Park Service and the Bureau of Reclamation develop and publish promptly plans for protecting Rainbow Bridge in the Rainbow Bridge National Monument, pursuant to Public Law 485 of the 84th Congress, and unless impractical from an engineering standpoint, that the cut-off dam on Bridge Creek be located at its junction with Aztec Creek.
- To commend the U.S. Forest Service for the protection it has afforded the Northern Cascades of Washington in the face of a shortage of funds and the requirement of law that primary attention be given to timber production.

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- The Sierra Club considers the Lake Chelan-Glacier Peak general area of the Northern Cascades between Stevens Pass and Foggy Pass to be outstanding in national park calibre, fully warranting protection under the basic policy of the 1916 Act establishing the National Park Service. The club would support a proposal for the Park Service to survey this area.
- To approve proposed reclassifications by the Forest Service of two Primitive Areas in California, with proposed boundaries of each as recommended by special study committees and delineated on maps. For the proposed Agua Tibia Wild Area it was recommended that the boundaries, while excluding the fire control road which runs through several sections of the Area, would extend to the road without buffer strips. For the proposed Mt. San Jacinto Wild Area it was recommended that the boundaries include the Antsell Rock-Apache Peak section on the south and also Castle Crag on Black Mountain Ridge on the northwest. The establishment of an adjacent scenic area, including Black Mountain, was also recommended.
- To urge that the Kern Plateau area south of Sequoia National Park and lying generally between the main and south forks of the Kern River be immediately classified as limited or roadless, and that the final zoning plan should include large wilderness and recreation areas in order to meet the needs of the constantly expanding population of southern California.
- To oppose the construction of new roads and the making of additional timber sales in
- The Kern Plateau area (excluding the Brush Creek-Salmon Creek sector, which has already been opened up by timber sales and roads) until the President's Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission has published its report, and a zoning plan has been approved by the Forest Service.
- To request the Forest Service to withhold any change in the status of the Waldo Lake Primitive Area in the central Cascades of Oregon pending study of the findings of the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission.
- To urge the immediate acquisition of Bodega Head for inclusion in the Sonoma Coast State Park.
- To emphasize that the Sierra Club includes among its concerns the acquisition and protection of adequate county, regional, and city parks; the designation within them of appropriate wild and natural areas, and the development of these areas for public use and enjoyment consistent with the long-range preservation and enjoyment of their park values.
- To approve the name "Redwood" for the new chapter in northwest California.
- To request the Lodges and Lands Committee to draft a master plan for the development and management of the Parsons Lodge property in Tuolumne Meadows, including sanitation, the relocation of the present public parking facilities, and meadow protection, in furtherance of the long standing policy of managing this property in a manner harmonious with the administration of the surrounding park lands.

LEWIS F. CLARK

## Council Begins a New Year

The Sierra Club Council, meeting in Oakland on May 3-4, considered a long agenda. Under the club's by-laws, the Council is empowered to recommend to the Board of Directors or appropriate committees on any matter affecting the club, to act on matters delegated by the Board of Directors, and to establish its rules of procedure.

Randal F. Dickey, Jr., was elected chairman for the current year. Other officers are:

Roy Dubisch, vice-chairman; Walter Ward, secretary; Kathleen Jackson and James Gorin, fourth and fifth members of the executive committee. Fred Eissler was introduced as the representative of the newly-formed Redwood Chapter.

Existing committees were asked by the new chairman to serve until he could review their needs.

Retiring chairman Kathleen Jackson an-

nounced that she had compiled a record of the Council's proceedings since its inception—a record of three years of development.

Various chapter matters were discussed, including plans to stagger terms of executive committees and to make all electoral years uniform throughout the club. The boundaries of the Redwood Chapter were approved for submission to the Board of Directors. Other chapter business covered a study of by-laws, membership procedures, duties of chapter officers, chapter publications, groups within chapters, and chapter headquarters.

Overall club matters were treated next. The perennial problem of delinquent members was presented, with several chapters

reporting success in reconverting them to paying members. A long-range study of expanded club headquarters is to be continued. The functions of the club library and its problems were the subject of a report and discussion.

Information and education, conservation education, public relations, and internal dissemination of information continue to be paramount concerns of the club. Committees of the Council are working on various aspects of these topics.

The next meeting of the Council will be in Los Angeles on October 18 and 19. Hospitality coördinator will be Ruth Schrader, 945 South Keniston Avenue, Los Angeles 9, California.

## Club Receives Generous Bequest

The death of Mary Randall on May 12, 1958, terminated a life estate trust in her favor which will result in distribution to the Sierra Club of approximately forty-five thousand dollars from the estate of her sister, Marion Randall Parsons.

During her lifetime Marion was devoted to the club and its welfare. She served as a director from 1914 to 1938, was a member of the Editorial Board for many years, and gave effective service on various other committees. For a year or so prior to John Muir's death she aided him in copying his notes and organizing the wealth of material he had gathered on Alaska. His book on this subject, "Travels in Alaska," was almost completed when he died; she was able to finish it, and it was published posthumously.

Marion's approach to nature and the natural scene was of a most understanding and sensitive character, as is attested by the many descriptive articles and reviews she wrote for the *Sierra Club Bulletin* and other publications. After her husband's death in 1914, she devoted much time to writing and landscape painting. She published two novels, and in 1952 (the year before her death) brought out a book entitled "Old California Houses—Portraits and Stories," illustrated with some of her paintings.

This brief account would be incomplete without mention of her husband, Edward Taylor Parsons. They were married in 1907. He had been an active member of the Mazamas in the northwest when his business brought him to the San Francisco area. He at once joined the Sierra Club (in 1900), and aided materially in organizing and conducting the first club outing in 1901. A few years later he became a director, and served in this capacity and as a member of the Outing Committee until his death; he was one of the most devoted and enthusiastic workers the club has ever had. Parsons Lodge in Tuolumne Meadows was erected by the club and his friends as a well deserved memorial.

In his will leaving his estate to his wife Marion, Edward Taylor Parsons expressed the wish that the bulk of the estate should eventually go to the Sierra Club, and in her own will she gladly carried out this wish.

Here were two tireless and self-sacrificing workers, who during their lives were devoted to conservation of the natural scene and who so provided that their material fortune will, down through the years, continue to work for the great cause. Marion Randall Parsons and Edward Taylor Parsons have set an example of generosity and unselfish devotion which inspires us all. **WILLIAM E. COLBY**

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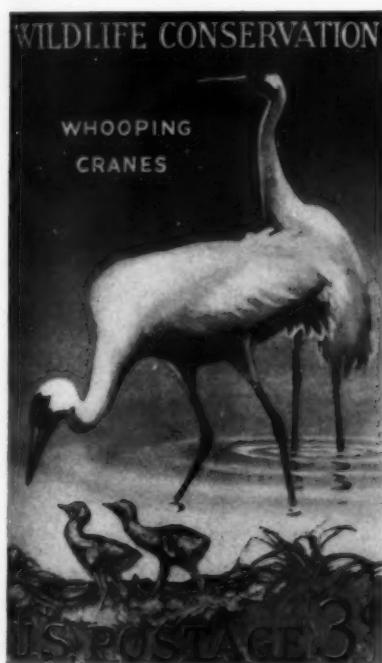
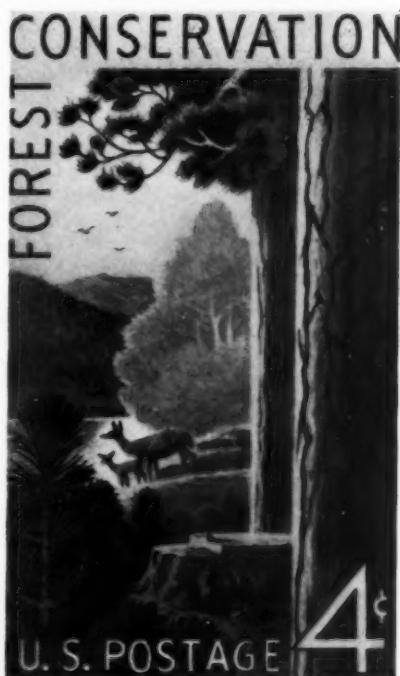
MBER, 1958

## Forest Conservation Stamp

The fifth stamp in the Post Office Department's conservation series—the 4-cent Forest Conservation commemorative—will be issued on October 27. First-day sale will be at Tucson, Arizona, at the annual meeting of the American Forestry Association.

This first forest conservation stamp in history commemorates the 100th anniversary of the birth of Theodore Roosevelt, one of the country's earliest forest conservationists, and salutes the many private and public agencies which have played a large part in the protection of the nation's natural resources. Featured are the major aspects of forest conservation, including new growth of young trees, scientific harvesting of mature timber, home and shelter for wildlife and birds, and protected watersheds.

The Whooping Crane was the subject of the most recent stamp in the series, issued last November. Previous stamps, portraying the Wild Turkey, Pronghorn Antelope and King Salmon, were illustrated in the *Sierra Club Bulletin*, January 1957.



## Teaching Materials

*Materials for Teaching Conservation and Resource-Use*, a 55-page bulletin, has been prepared by the National Association of Biology Teachers and is available for 35 cents from Interstate Printers and Publishers, Inc., Danville, Illinois.

The bulletin includes listings of free and inexpensive materials from state and national agencies, selected references, films and film strips, prepared by various members of the Conservation Committee of NABT, according to Dr. Richard L. Weaver of the University of Michigan, chairman.

The new materials listed in this bulletin were assembled as the appendix of the *Handbook for Teaching Conservation and Resource-Use*, reprinted in January by the Conservation Committee of the National Association of Biology Teachers. The Conservation Handbook of 500 pages is also available from Interstate Printers and Publishers for \$4.50, with educational discounts available.

## New Books . . .

*Anza-Borrego Desert Guide Book: Southern California's Last Frontier.* By Horace Parker. Map and trip logs by Jack P. Welch. Paisano Press, Balboa Island, California, 1957. \$2.50. The author's enthusiastic personal exploration has combined with historical and geological wisdom gleaned from experts to produce a guide book which will send the adventurous desert-lover hunting a jeep in which to prowl some of the 450,000 acres of Anza-Borrego State Park. The photographs are full of interest, the text vividly written and carefully indexed.

*California Winter Sports and the VIIIth Winter Olympic Games, 1960, at Squaw Valley.* By J. E. Carpenter. Fearon Publishers, San Francisco, 1958. \$4. Jerry Carpenter gives advance facts on the 1960 Winter Olympic Games—the place and the events which may include sled-dog racing and the ancient Scottish sport of curling), plus masses of statistics. This is followed by a brief history of skiing, and descriptions of California winter sports areas. The book is profusely illustrated with action photographs.

*Lower California Guidebook: A Descriptive Traveler's Guide with Route Maps, Illustrations, Bibliography and Index.* By Peter Gerhard and Howard E. Gulick. Arthur H. Clark Co., Glendale, California. 2nd edition, 1958. Clothbound \$6, stiff paper cover \$5.25. This book is much more than a guide to the slow rough roads encountered in most of Baja California. The senior author has included much historical information from libraries and archives in Mexico and Spain.

The junior author has brought the excellent road maps up to date (since publication of the first edition in 1956), and has provided a new detail map of the route recently opened (for 4-wheel-drive cars) south from San Felipe. A short chapter on the conspicuous and unusual plants of the peninsula is added, and the list of the fish found in surrounding waters is completely revised.

## . . . and Booklets

*Hiking, Camping, and Mountaineering Equipment.* Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, Washington, D.C. 9th edition, 1958. Latest edition of the invaluable reference guide to superior equipment available in this country and from sources abroad. Short descriptions, sizes, weights, prices, and suppliers' addresses for hundreds of items, from those for the Sunday hiker to specialties for the high-altitude mountaineer. Introductions to each of the four sections—hiking and camping, technical mountaineering, trail clearing, and equipment for hiking the Appalachian Trail—include comment and criticism on tested new offerings. (50¢ per copy from the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, 1916 Sunderland Place, N.W., Washington 6.

*Glaciation in Big Bend National Park, Texas.* By Hubert O. Jenkins. Sacramento State College Foundation, Sacramento, California. In this 15-page pamphlet, Professor Jenkins outlines the evidence he has observed of past glaciation in the Chisos Mountains on Texas' southern border. There appears to be no previous reference to this in geological literature, and his findings would establish the area as containing the southernmost glaciation in the United States. (Complimentary copies available from the publisher: address Sacramento State College Foundation, 6000 J Street, Sacramento 19.)

*The Conservation Directory* (a listing of organizations and officials concerned with the protection of wildlife and other natural resources). International, federal, state and private conservation organizations and agencies of the United States, Canada, Latin America and the Philippines—their addresses, officers, and personnel. (50¢ per copy from the National Wildlife Federation, 232 Carroll Street, N.W., Washington 12.)

## MOUNTAINEERING BOOKS

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## Mountain Talk

**C**HILDREN have a natural bent for outdoor fun, but we enthusiasts who like our mountains big and tough can easily discourage our offspring. Not to mention their mothers, poor souls.

As one father to others who often ask, let me tell you what we did this summer to get our child into the mountains and out again, wanting more.

Deborah, who is seven, had previously had a two-week Base Camp and two private camping trips with burros. She is reasonably sturdy, but each summer she started out with a siege of altitude sickness. She forgot about it afterward, but we didn't, so this year we aimed low.

She is also very sociable. For company and for fun, we teamed up with four other Sierrans males who brought along three wives (two of them new to this sort of thing) and four girls and three boys in age from three to thirteen. We planned together, made reservations, bought food and equipment, and met in Yosemite Valley on a Sunday afternoon.

Early Monday morning we assembled at the stables, loaded food and dunnage on three mules, one burro and five backpackers, and set off via Happy Isles for our high country.

The packer and mules had vanished long before our little army struck out, four small fry at a time riding the four saddle burros. Rainbow, the pack burro, sat down once but we lifted her to her feet with the help of such gentle words as we knew.

At noon we lunched at Nevada Falls. By 5 o'clock we were all in camp on Sunrise Creek next to Moraine Dome, about eight miles from the Valley. We treated our patients with soup and corned beef and other remedies, held council around a good fire, and went to bed under the firs.

It was a splendid week. Deborah caught her first trout, adult anglers caught limits. Two groups climbed Half Dome, another Cloud's Rest, everybody Moraine Dome. The burro boss had eight eager helpers who led

his charges from pasture to pasture; in return, every day, Freddie, Mexico, Prince and Jonas furnished rides. Rainbow grazed in lonely grandeur, a victim of specialization.

Deer came into camp, we talked about bears, we smoked a rattlesnake nest under a granite ledge. We reveled in wildflowers. Bathing in the creek was cold, falling into it was colder. We sang silly songs and sentimental ballads while amazing goodies baked in the reflector ovens. We ate and ate, determined to reduce our commissary to burro crumbs.

The children thrived on picnics and short hikes and rides. They slept well, played old games and invented new ones, plotted riddles for the campfire, posed for immortal snapshots.

The next Sunday, hiking and riding down to the cars behind their bearded fathers and straw-hatted mothers, they were tanned and happy as ever. They had camped for a week on a little-used section of the John Muir Trail, but that wasn't the point.

They had enjoyed the mountains, and they wanted to come back.

FRED GUNSKY



by Robert P. Howell

## Bulletin Board

THE 85TH CONGRESS, more conservation-minded than any other within recent years, enacted the following legislation of major importance and interest to conservationists:

A National Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission was established to inventory our present recreation resources and facilities—and to project our long-range recreational needs through the year 2,000 A.D. This Commission will also aid in coördinating recreational planning by the many agencies now concerned with our outdoor resources.

The new \$3 Duck Stamp Act will earmark all receipts for acquisition of wetlands, greatly boosting our wildlife resources.

A bill to regulate military land withdrawals now requires approval by Congress of any withdrawal exceeding 5,000 acres by any branch of our military forces.

The Fish and Wildlife Service is now authorized to pursue chemical pesticide research to determine long-range effects of indiscriminate use of such pesticides.

The new Federal Highway Act of 1958 offers a bonus—applicable to the new Interstate Highway Construction program—to states having adequate billboard control.

Forest lands of the Klamath Indian Reservation (Oregon) are assured sustained-yield management through either private or federal acquisition. Last-minute amending prevents watershed destruction or financial difficulties for the Klamath Indians and sets up (under the Fish and Wildlife Service) a 23,421-acre waterfowl marsh.

### *Conservation scoreboard for the 85th Congress*

The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to acquire 1,200 acres of non-federal land—plus certain National Forest lands—in the region of El Portal, California, to provide a new administrative site for Yosemite National Park.

Revision of the Coördination Act of 1946 provides for fish and wildlife values to be planned into federal water projects—such as flood control, power, navigation and reclamation. On the other hand, private water projects are still not required to consider these values: the proposal to require approval by the Secretary of the Interior before the Federal Power Commission could grant private power development permits failed to pass.

*In like vein, the 85th Congress finally adopted an omnibus Rivers and Harbors Bill (which the President did not veto) that includes authorization of \$1,200,000 for detailed planning of Bruce's Eddy Dam on the North Fork of the Clearwater River, Idaho. Although the project itself is not approved, the Public Works Bill appropriates \$500,000 for the Army Corps of Engineers to initiate this planning.*

*The 85th Congress also failed to pass the following bills: (1) to establish a national park along the old Chesapeake and Ohio Canal right-of-way; (2) to change the status of Dinosaur National Monument to that of a national park; and, most important, (3) the Wilderness Bill, which would give much-needed, more adequate protection to our scenic, recreational and wildlife resources. However, field hearings on this bill have been scheduled in the West this fall, and it is hoped that the bill will be reintroduced early in the 86th Congress.*

EDGAR AND PEGGY WAYBURN

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